Virginia Department of Fire Programs
1005 Technology Park Drive
Richmond, Virginia 23059-4500

MEDIA ALERT

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Contact: Mark Buff
Virginia Department of Fire Programs
Marketing and Communications Manager
tel: 804.249.1965   e-mail: mark.buff@vdfp.virginia.gov
website: www.vafire.com

Virginia fire departments responded to 747,654 incidents in calendar year 2012

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA: The Virginia Department of Fire Programs has just released its annual "Fighting Fires with Facts" report. The report provides an overview and analysis of incident responses by Virginia's fire service in 2012 compiled from the Virginia Fire Incident Reporting System (VFIRS), and summarizes the data at the state, locality, and fire department level.

Fire service in Virginia has the responsibility to be prepared to respond to many different types of situations and events. Firefighters respond to all types of fires, but also have to be equipped to handle medical emergencies, rescue operations, hazardous conditions, and severe weather occurrences. Fire service also performs many tasks of providing public service assistance to their local communities.

In 2012, fire departments responded to 747,654 incidents in Virginia. These incidents included 25,150 fires, 512,155 rescue and EMS incidents, 31,087 hazardous condition calls, 46,355 service calls, 73,303 good intent calls, 52,465 false calls and 7,139 other calls.   There were 44,156 incidents in which a fire department provided assistance (mutual or automatic aid given) to another jurisdiction. In addition, there were 352 fire incidents that were fire exposures (fires large enough to cause fire damage beyond the property where the fire started).

Highlights from the 2012 report include:

➢ In 2012, fire departments in Virginia responded to **792,162** total responses for the year, averaging **2,170** calls every day; one incident every **40 seconds**.

➢ There were **25,150** fires in Virginia for 2012, which accounted for only **3%** of the total incidents and resulted in a total dollar loss of **$273 million**.

➢ Fire service responded to **512,155** rescue and EMS calls in 2012, which accounted for **69%** of the total incidents.

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➢ There were 384 incidents with a total of **474** civilian fire casualties; while 555 incidents accounted for a total of **694** fire service casualties.

➢ **Cooking** was the cause of 38% of all residential structure fires.

➢ **512** or **88.9%** of a total of **576** fire departments reported incident to VFIRS for 2012. The departments that reported incidents for 2012 represented **97.5%** of Virginia's population.

➢ Incidents occurred at a rate of **95.8** incidents for every 1,000 Virginia residents.

➢ **$5.8 billion** dollars of property and contents were saved with fire incidents.

➢ Structure fires accounted for **35%** of the fire incidents; Brush fires made up **26%** of the total fires.

➢ Aid was given **44,156** times by fire departments to departments in other jurisdictions.

➢ There were **352** exposure fires that spread from the original source fire to another building, structure, or vehicle.

➢ **July** was the month with the most incidents, while **April** was the month with the largest amount of fires.

➢ The average response time with fire departments in 2012 was **6.9** minutes.

➢ Each fire incident on average had **4** pieces of apparatus and **10** total personnel.

➢ Fire service accumulated **3.0 million** hours responding to incidents.

➢ **32%** of residential structure fires had a detector that operated and alerted the occupants.

For more information or questions about the "Fighting Fires with Facts" report, please contact Dwight.Crews@vdfp.virginia.gov. To view the full report, click here.

About VDFP
The Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) provides support services to approximately 785 fire and emergency service organizations and over 120,000 firefighters in the Commonwealth. Support areas include funding, professional development, public fire and life safety education/awareness, research, operational support, advocacy, and technical assistance. For more information on VDFP, please click here.

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